

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /084 W

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R 131151Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY AKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 06871

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BE, XF

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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 06871 131357Z

SUBJECT: PLO OFFICE IN BRUSSELS SOON

REF: BRUSSELS 3628

1. EGYPTIAN DCM (NEHAD ASKALANI - PROTECT -) TOLD US THAT BELGIAN GOVERNMENT HAD AGREED TO ALLOW OPENING OF PLO INFORMATION OFFICE IN BRUSSELS, WHICH WOULD BE LED BY NAIM KHADAR WHO IS CURRENTLY PLO REP HERE OPERATING OUT OF ARAB LEAGUE OFFICE. NEHAD SAID NO DATE FOR OPENING WAS FIXED AND OFFICE WOULD HAVE NO SPECIAL STATUS. HE SAID THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY DECISION WAS RESULT OF RECENT REQUEST BY ARAB CHIEFS OF MISSION POSTED IN BRUSSELS, FORMULATED DURING THEIR LAST PERIODIC MEETING AND TRANSMITTED TO FOREIGN MINISTRY BY IRAQI AMBASSADOR DURING HIS FAREWELL CALLS (HE IS BEING TRANSFERRED TO ATHENS).

2. FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DIRECTOR FOR MIDDLE EASTERN AFFAIRS (AMB PATERNOTTE) TOLD US ONLY THAT BELGIUM WAS "CLOSER" TO HAVING A PLO OFFICE AND THERE MIGHT BE ONE "PERHAPS BY THE END OF THE SUMMER". HE SAID THAT OPENING OF OFFICE WOULD REPRESENT ONLY "RECOGNITION OF THE DE FACTO SITUATION" IN BRUSSELS AND WOULD NEITHER REPRESENT BELGIAN "FORMAL RECOGNITION" OF PLO NOR "IMPLY GRANTING OF SPECIAL STATUS". HE SAID THAT THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES, SINCE PLO WAS NEITHER A STATE NOR AN EMBASSY NOR AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION. AMB. PATERNOTTE ENDED WITH OBSERVATION THAT PLO "SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED SINCE IT HAS PROVED TO BE THE MOST RESPONSIBLE OF THE PALESTINE ORGANIZATIONS; THINGS ARE GETTING DIRTIER BY THE MINUTE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA FOR EUROPEANS TO HAVE A RESPECTABLE LINK." FIRESTONE

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Message Attributes

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